United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Arizona Strip Field Office
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Environmental Assessment

Belnap Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal

EA-AZ-130-2005-0015

I. INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes the proposed grazing permit renewal for the Belnap allotment. The action culminates an evaluation conducted on the allotment under the Arizona BLM Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management (S&Gs). In addition, this EA looks at the present allotment management, and determines if current grazing management practices would maintain desirable conditions and continue to allow improvement of public land resources, or if changes in grazing management for this allotment are necessary. This EA is intended to evaluate the findings of the Belnap assessment as it relates to vegetation conditions and resource values in the allotment. This is done in an effort to balance demands placed on the resources by various authorized uses within the allotment.

Analysis of existing allotment data indicate that species composition and vegetation cover objectives are being met and species frequency are trending upward. The Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT) determined during the assessment process, that resource conditions on the allotment are meeting Standards for Rangeland Health.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of this action is to renew the grazing permit associated with the Belnap grazing allotment (#4849) for a period of ten years. The Belnap grazing allotment is located 60 miles south-southwest of St. George, Utah, in the northwest portion of Arizona on lands managed by Bureau of Land Management in the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.

Conformance with Land Use Plan

This proposal is found to be in conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan (RMP) dated January 1992, as amended April 1997. The RMP adopted resource specific activity plans from the Shivwits Grazing EIS (July, 1980), including allotment management plans. The Shivwits Grazing EIS proposed that the Belnap allotment should continue to be managed under the implemented grazing rotation.

Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument

Belnap is within the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. Designation of the monument does not, in and of itself, require modification of the current grazing practices. The presidential proclamation states that "Laws, regulations, and policies followed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in issuing and administering grazing leases on all lands under its jurisdiction shall continue to apply…". However, Interim Management Guidelines (IM 2002-008, October 11, 2001) have been established to guide management while current planning efforts are under way. These guidelines postpone the implementation of new range improvement projects (fences, pipelines, vegetative treatments) until a new Resource Management Plan (RMP) is completed. Under the Antiquities Act, BLM must protect objects identified in the presidential proclamations that establish national monuments. Therefore, if BLM determines, through the current planning process or otherwise, that any monument objects are harmed by current management, then management (including permit conditions) will be modified accordingly.

Relationships to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans

This action is in conformance with Arizona's Standards and Guides, which were developed through a collaborative process involving the Arizona Resource Advisory Council and the Bureau of Land Management State Standards and Guidelines team. The Secretary of the Interior approved the Standards and Guidelines in April 1997. The Decision Record, signed by the BLM Arizona State Director (April 1997) provided for full implementation of the Standards and Guides in all Arizona BLM Land Use Plans

Grazing permit renewals are also provided for in 43 CFRs 4100 where the objectives of regulations are"....to promote healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems; to accelerate restoration and improvement of public rangelands to properly functioning conditions; to promote the orderly use,....; to establish efficient and effective administration of grazing of public rangelands;....", and as provided for in the Land Use Plans in accordance with multiple-use objectives, requirements and provisions of established laws, regulations and BLM policies incorporating Desired Plant Community (DPC) objectives using the Ecological Site Index approach.

Grazing management practices of the Belnap allotment are in conformance with Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. These practices are intended to assist management in meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health.

Renewal of the Belnap permit conforms to the President's National Energy Policy and would not have adverse energy impacts. This action would not deny energy projects, withdraw lands, close roads or in any other way deny or limit access to mineral materials to support energy actions.

Issues raised relating to Standards for Rangeland Health

Identification of issues for the Belnap S&G evaluation and this assessment were accomplished by the Rangeland Resources Team (RRT), Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT), and

livestock permittee during scoping on March 14, 2001. One specific issues relating to rangeland health was brought forward. However, since the completion of the S&G evaluation the Belnap grazing permit was transferred to a new operator. The new permittee has requested the season of use be modified from that on the current term permit. This specific issue brought forward by the operator will receive further analysis in this EA.

- Modify the livestock season of use from summer/fall (06/01-11/15) to winter/spring (12/01-05/15)on the Belnap allotment

- An infestation of the noxious weed, scotch thistle (Onopordum acanthium) has been identified at Fence Pond within the Belnap allotment boundary. The infestation area is approximately 1/10 acre in size. There have been efforts over the past five years to treat this infestation. Although these efforts have not totally eradicated the noxious weed in the area, they have had an impact in reducing the size and plant numbers of the infestation. Presently, the infestation has not expanded beyond its located site.

Current Planning Process

The Arizona Strip Field Office is currently involved in a planning process that will result in three stand alone RMPs, one for each new National Monument and one for the Arizona Strip outside of the monuments. No grazing changes are currently anticipated for the Belnap allotment. However, there may be modifications as a result of the new RMPs. The 10- year grazing permit, in part, states "This permit is subject to (A) modification, suspension or cancellation as required by land plans and applicable law; (B) annual review and to modification of terms and conditions as appropriate; …". BLM may use these permit conditions to implement any changes required under the new RMPs.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action (Renewal of 10 Year Grazing Permit with season of use modifications to the Belnap allotment)

The Proposed Action is to renew the grazing permit on the Belnap allotment for a period of ten years with modified terms and conditions. Under this alternative, BLM would:

- Cancel the existing annual permit (Table 2) and reissue term (ten year) grazing permit on the Belnap allotment as listed in Table 1. The proposed action reflects a season of use modification from summer/fall (June 1 to November 15) use to winter/spring (December 1 to May 15). Livestock grazing would occur during the season of use, and with the number of AUMs, shown in Table 1. This is a change from that displayed in Table 2 and Alternative A.

- Adopt all criteria associated with the proposed grazing decision as the interim Allotment Management Plan (AMP) for the Belnap allotment until the future AMP is finalized. Criteria

would include the proposed season of use, livestock numbers, grazing system, desired plant community and vegetation cover objectives, billing schedule, monitoring, and the associated maintenance of facilities/improvements (pasture and boundary fences, catchments, reservoirs, and corrals) relevant to the grazing operation and permit.

- Consider, through the NEPA process any new range improvements to assist in grazing practices and promote rangeland health.

Table 1 - Proposed Action Permit Issuance and Modification

Allotment Name	Permittee	Permit Number	Livestock			Active AUMs	Public Land (acres)	% Public Land
			No.	Kind	Season of Use			
Belnap	Canyon Edge L.L.C.	4849	110	Cattle	12/01-05/15	515	7,279	85%
			4	Horses	12/01-05/15	19		

Alternative A

Alternative A would renew the grazing permit for the Belnap allotment for a period of ten years with current terms and conditions. Alternative A proposes no change from the present grazing permit. Livestock numbers and season of use would be limited to the current active preference as shown in Table 2. New range improvements to assist in grazing management and promote rangeland health would be considered through the NEPA process.

Table 2 – Alternative A Permit Issuance

Allotment Name	Permittee	Permit Number	Livestock			Active AUMs	Public Land (acres)	% Public Land
			No.	Kind	Season of Use			
Belnap	Canyon Edge L.L.C.	4849	110	Cattle	06/01-11/15	515	7,279	85%
			4	Horses	06/01-11/15	19		

The text box below illustrates differences between the Preferred Alternative and Alternative A relative to the season of use for permitted livestock.

Alternative	Livestock Numbers	AUMs	Season of Use
Preferred Alternative	110 cattle	515	12/01 to 05/15
	4 horses	19	12/01 to 05/15
Alternative A	110 cattle	515	06/01 to 11/15
	4 horses	19	06/01 to 11/15

Alternatives Considered But Rejected For Further Analysis

Alternatives are tiered to the Arizona Strip District RMP (January, 1992) and the Shivwits

Grazing EIS (July, 1980) which was adopted into the RMP and are basically the same for this action. The Grazing EIS addressed five alternatives: Full Stocking with Management, Stocking Level by Condition Class, No Vegetation Manipulation, Elimination of Grazing on Public Lands, and Less Intensive Management of Livestock Grazing.

The following three alternatives were considered for this EA but rejected because they were analyzed in the RMP, to which this document is tiered.

- **Full Stocking with Management alterative** would allow stocking at the estimated livestock carrying capacity of each allotment but otherwise would provide the same management as the proposed action, which is intensive management of 40 allotments and less intensive management on 10 allotments.

- **Stocking Level by Condition Class alternative** would set the stocking level based on the average condition and apparent trend of the allotment.

- **No Grazing Alternative (Elimination of Livestock Grazing on Public Lands).** The decision to authorize livestock grazing in this area and specifically on the Belnap allotment is documented in the approved land use plan. The absence of new information or other land use plan decisions showing that continued livestock grazing would preclude BLM from meeting or making significant progress toward achieving land health standards renders the existing land use plan authorizing grazing valid. A no grazing alternative or not renewing a grazing permit would not conform to the land use plan. A plan amendment would be required before closing an allotment to livestock grazing.

The Grazing System Description for the Belnap Allotment

Even though the Belnap allotment has no official AMP, it has been operating under a two pasture deferred rotation system since 1984. The allotment is split into two units; a north pasture and a south pasture. The north pasture, being the smaller of the two receives 76 days of grazing use, while the larger south pasture is prescribed 92 days grazing use per year. Cattle are turned on the allotment June 1 and remain until November 15. Table 3 illustrates the current grazing prescription by pasture for a ten year period. Time of use for each pasture is alternated each year.

Table 3 – Grazing Prescription by Unit under Current Management Alternative A

Years	Unit	Prescribed Grazing
Years 1,3,5,7, and 9	North Pasture South Pasture	June 1 to August 15 August 16 to November 15
Years 2,4,6,8, and 10	North Pasture South Pasture	September 1 to November 15 June 1 to August 31

Table 4 below illustrates the Belnap grazing prescription by pasture for a ten year period under the Proposed Action with a season of use modification.

Table 4 – Grazing Prescription by Unit under the Proposed Action		
Years	**Unit**	**Prescribed Grazing**
Years 1,3,5,7, and 9	North Pasture South Pasture	December 1 to February 14 February 15 to May 15
Years 2,4,6,8, and 10	North Pasture South Pasture	March 1 to May 15 December 1 to February 28

Grazing Preference and Current Use on the Allotment

Belnap

Livestock Numbers	Season of Use	% Federal	Active AUMs
110 Cattle	06/01 to 11/15	85%	515
4 Horses	06/01 to 11/15	85%	19
		Total	534

Terms and Conditions of Grazing Permit

Grazing would be in accordance with the grazing preference, livestock numbers, and season of use specified on the grazing permit. Billing for grazing use would be based on the actual use report which is due on or before May 30 each year. Livestock may be moved 15 days before or after scheduled move dates.

Desired Plant Community (DPC)

This EA also incorporates by reference the "Implementation of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, Belnap Allotment S&G Assessment" (2002)[1]. The Belnap Allotment Assessment lists and evaluates achievement of the allotments DPC objectives summarized below. These objectives are expressed in species composition by weight and percent vegetation cover.

Desired Plant Community (DPC) Key Areas #1 & #2 (Loamy Upland 9-13" pz)

- Maintain tree composition between 2-10 percent through 2030.
- Maintain shrub composition between 15-50 percent through 2030.
- Maintain perennial grass composition between 50-80 percent through 2030
- Maintain forb composition between 2-10 percent through 2030.
- Maintain basal vegetation cover between 6-10 percent through 2030.

Monitoring

[1]Belnap Allotment S&G Assessment, available at the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790.

The goals of monitoring would be to determine if the fundamentals or conditions of Rangeland Health are being met within the allotment area under 43 CFR 4180. These conditions of Rangeland Health are:

> (a) Watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, properly functioning physical condition, including their upland, riparian-wetland, and aquatic components; soil and plant conditions support infiltration, soil moisture storage, and the release of water that are in balance with climate and land form and maintain or improve water-quality, water quantity, and timing and duration of flow.
>
> (b) Ecological processes, including the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow, are maintained, or there is significant progress toward their attainment, in order to support healthy biotic populations and communities.
>
> (c) Water quality complies with State water quality standards and achieves, or is making significant progress toward achieving, established BLM management objectives such as meeting wildlife needs.
>
> (d) Habitats are, or are making significant progress toward being restored or maintained for Federal threatened and endangered species, Federal Proposed, Category 1 and 2 Federal candidate and other special status species.

To monitor rangeland health conditions, key areas as defined in the *Monitoring* "Planning for Monitoring", "TR 4400-1", (1984) would be used. The key area would be used as an indicator area to reflect the effect of on the ground management on the site they represent. Each key area would be established based on a Range Site/Ecological Site (developed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, (NRCS)) with a specific Potential Natural Community (PNC) and specific physical site characteristics. Knowing the PNC of the area, and using the ecological site descriptions as a guide, DPC objectives can be developed. The DPC then becomes the objectives by which management actions would be measured.

Dry Weight Rank (DWR) method of data collection would be used to monitor species composition. In addition, Pace Frequency and Step-Point studies would be used at each key area to detect changes of individual species and vegetative cover, which indicates a trend and status of basal and foliar cover. Pace Frequency, Step-Point and DWR would be completed on each key area every 3-6 years. DWR and Pace Frequency study methods are described in *Sampling Vegetation Attributes*, "Interagency Technical Reference 1734-4" (1996).

Livestock use on forage plants would be determined by conducting grazing utilization studies using the Grazed-Class Method as described in the *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements* "Interagency Technical Reference 1734-3" (1996). Utilization studies would be completed annually in each grazing unit by BLM prior to and/or after livestock have been removed from the pasture. Study data would be compiled each year. Other information to be collected and compiled is precipitation, actual use, etc. All monitoring data would be used to

evaluate current management and assist BLM in making management decisions that helps achieve vegetation objectives on the allotment.

Analysis of existing allotment data suggests DPC objectives are being met. It was determined by the Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT) during the assessment process, that resource conditions on the allotment are meeting Standards for Rangeland Health.

Allotment compliance would be conducted annually on the allotment. Compliance monitoring assures terms and conditions of the permit and any other subsequent requirements attached to range improvement permits are being met.

Based on analyses of the allotment's monitoring data and supporting documentation contained in the Belnap S&G Assessment Report (2002), resource conditions on the allotment meet all applicable standards for rangeland health.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The Belnap grazing allotment is located 60 miles south of St. George, Utah, in the northwest portion of Arizona on lands managed by the BLM. The allotment is within the boundaries of T. 34 and 35 N., R. 10 W., southwest of Bundyville. Elevations range from 5,320' in the sagebrush draws to 5,520' on the pinyon-juniper ridges.

The affected environment is tiered to the Arizona Strip District RMP (January 31, 1992), Affected Environment pages III-1 to III-58, and pages 41 to 92 of he Shivwits Grazing EIS (July, 1980) which was adopted into the RMP and are essentially the same for this action. Chapter 2 of the Shivwits Grazing EIS describes the environmental components likely to be impacted by the proposed action. Environmental components discussed in the EIS that might affect or be affected by the proposal are: Climate, Vegetation, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species, Riparian Vegetation, Soils, Water Resources, Animals (wildlife), Cultural Resources, Visual Resources, and Land Uses including livestock grazing and recreation.

This EA also incorporates by reference the "Implementation of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, Belnap Allotment S&G Assessment" (2002)[2]. This S&G Assessment describes the resources and issues applicable to the allotment area. See the Belnap Allotment S&G Assessment Appendix for other resource data and associated information.

Climate

Average annual precipitation on the allotment is approximately 9-13". Since there is no rain gauge on the allotment, the two nearest gauges at Alcorn and Bundyville are used to interpret

[2] Belnap Allotment S&G Assessment, available at the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790.

annual rainfall amounts. The Alcorn rain gauge is located in T35N, R10W, Sec.30, approximately 1 mile north of the allotment boundary. Average precipitation is ~13.02" annually. Approximately 12 percent (1.58") comes in the fall, 30 percent (3.94") in the winter, 19 percent (2.44") in the spring and 39 percent (5.05") in the summer.

The Bundyville rain gauge is located in T35N, R9W, Sec.19, approximately 3 miles northeast of the allotment. Average precipitation is 10.88" annually. Approximately 13 percent (1.42") comes in the fall, 24 percent (2.63") in the winter, 24 percent (2.56") in the spring, and 39 percent (4.27") in the summer. Even though the two rain gauges differ in the amount of annual rain fall, seasonal distribution of the precipitation is very similar.

Vegetation

The principal vegetative type[3] within the allotment is pinyon-juniper woodlands with associated sagebrush and grass understory.

- The pinyon-juniper type includes pinyon, juniper, sagebrush, cliffrose, desert holly, banana yucca, blue grama, sand dropseed, squirrel tail and various forbs.

This vegetative type consists of two dominant ecological sites[4] that are part of the Major Land Resource Units, as defined by the NRCS. The limestone ridges and slopes are classified as a Shallow Loamy Upland 9-13" precipitation zone (pz). The draws, swales, and bottoms are classified as Loamy Uplands 9-13" pz.

Water Sources

Belnap allotment contains:

- 3 fenced reservoirs
- 3 unfenced reservoirs
- 2 wildlife catchments

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species

There is no suitable habitat for any listed threatened or endangered species on the allotment. However, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) may occasionally fly over the area. There are no riparian areas that would provide habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*). An experimental non-essential population (as defined under section 10J of the Endangered Species Act) of

[3] Shivwits Grazing Environmental Impact Statement

[4] An ecological site is a distinctive kind of land that differs from other kinds in its ability to produce a characteristic plant community. Each ecological site is a product of all environmental factors responsible for its development. Each site is capable of producing and supporting a plant community typified by an association of species that differs from other ecological sites in species kind, proportion and total production.

California condors was established on the Vermillion Cliffs in 1996. These birds may eventually forage on carrion within the allotment but have not yet been observed doing so.

BLM Sensitive and State Species of Concern

Ferruginous hawks (*Buteo regalis*) are known to forage over grassland habitat similar to that found on the allotment, though specific sightings have not been recorded for the area. Black-crowned night Heron (*Nysticorax nycticorax hoactli*) and snowy egrets (*Egretta thula brewsteri*) have occasionally been observed using stock tanks in the area, but have not been recorded on the allotment. A variety of sensitive bat species have been captured on neighboring allotments including Townsend's big-eared (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), spotted bats (*Euderma maculatum*), small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), and big free-tailed bats (*Nyctinomops macrotis*).

No other, federally listed T&E species are known to occur in the area covered by this EA.

Wildlife

The Hurricane Valley provides habitat for a herd of from 100 to 150 pronghorn antelope (*Antilocarpa Americana*). However, pronghorn have not been observed in the allotment, nor in areas surrounding the Belnap allotment. BLM and Arizona Game and Fish do not consider the allotment suitable habitat for pronghorn due to the abundance of sagebrush and juniper trees. It is unlikely that pronghorn occur on the allotment.

Mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus) occur in limited numbers on the allotment. However, the area is not considered prime mule deer habitat. The area is included within Game Management Unit (GMU) 13B.

Nongame wildlife found on the allotment is typical of the area, including a variety of small mammals, grassland birds, raptors, and reptiles. All waters within this arid region are important for wildlife

Soil

The only soils monitoring data for this area is the Phase 1 Watershed Conservation and Development Inventory of 1971-1973 (See Field Office Files 7300). It was based upon a general soils map and thus ended up as broad interpretations and averages over large areas. Other more specific and detailed soils information is as follows:

Soil Map Units , SSA 623

08 Barx fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes, (fan terraces), mixed; Loamy Upland, 9" to 13"Bisoodi-Anasazi family complex, 1 to 8 percent slopes, (plateaus), limestone and

sandstone; Bisoodi-Shallow Loamy, 9” to 13” ppt; Anasazi family-Sandy Loam Upland (calcareous), 9” to 13” ppt

45 Mellenthin-Rock outcrop-Torriorthents complex, 10 to 70 percent slopes (hills) Kiabab; Mellenthin-Shallow Loamy, 9” to 13”; Torriorthents-Breaks, 9” to 13”

46 Mellenthin-Strych Complex, 4 to 25 percent slopes, cool, (plateaus, mesas), limestone; Mellenthin-Shallow Loamy, 9” to 13”; Strych-Loamy Upland, 9” to 13”

49 Mellenthin-Tanbark complex, 5 to 50 percent slopes, dry, (plateau, mesa, hill), SS, gypsite; Mellenthin-Limey Upland, 9” to 13”; Tanbark- Gypsum Hills, 9” to 13” Radnik loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes (floodplain) mixed; Loamy Bottom, 9” to 13” ppt

73 Strych very gravelly loam, 2 to 10 percent slopes (fan) mixed; Loamy Upland, 9” to 13”

The watershed area within the allotment was classified as Category IV in the 1992 RMP. This category includes watershed units that are less resistant to erosion, but would be responsive to treatment. Most of the Belnap allotment is currently in fair to good erosion condition or demonstrates fair to good resistance to erosion. Old gullies are healing into smaller, vegetated drainages. Therefore, watershed units within the allotment are being reclassified to Category II. Category II watershed units are considered to be in satisfactory erosion condition or more resistant to withstand erosive events.

Lithology

The Belnap allotment consists mainly of Kaibab limestone, Moenkopi mudstones and gypsum hills and ridges with associated alluvial fans and floodplains. Steep limestone walls of the Parashant Canyon are at the allotments south end.

Cultural/Historical

Prehistoric and Historical sites exist throughout the allotment.

Visual Resources

The 1992 RMP classified this area as Visual Resource Management Class (VRM) Class IV. VRM Class IV represents lands with low visual resource values when compared to others in the region.

Livestock Grazing

The Belnap Allotment (#4849) is comprised of 7,297 acres of federal BLM land, 640 acres of state land, and 120 acres of private land. The total number of active AUMs on the allotment is 534. The current season of use is 06/01 to 11/15.

Recreation Resources

The Belnap Allotment is considered to have recreation value for its scenic qualities, remoteness, and solitude. General recreation activities include: recreational OHV use, driving for pleasure, camping, hunting, photography and bird watching.

The following resources are not present in the allotment and are therefore not affected by the proposed action or alternatives:

- Wilderness
- Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Wetlands/Riparian Areas
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)
- Wild Horses and Burros
- Minerals
- Hazardous Materials

Noxious Weeds

A small patch of scotch thistle less than ¼ acre has been identified around the Fence Pond within the Belnap Allotment boundary. There have been efforts over the past five years to treat this infestation. Although these efforts have not yet eradicated the noxious weed in the area, they have had an impact in reducing the size and plant numbers of the infestation. Presently, the infestation has been reduced in size and has not expanded beyond its located site. This area is monitored annually and treated when weeds are detected.

Socio/Economic

Economic revenue generated from the Arizona Strip is mainly ranching with a few gypsum/selenite mines and uranium operations. Nearby communities are supported by tourism (including outdoor recreation), construction and light industry. The social aspect involves remote, unpopulated settings with moderate to high opportunities for solitude.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following critical elements of the human environment are not affected by the proposed action or alternatives or are not present:

- Air Quality
- Native American Religious Concerns
- Water Quality, Drinking or Ground

Only impacts that may result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives are described in this EA. If an ecological component is not discussed, it should be assumed that the

resource specialists have considered effects to the component and found the proposed action or alternatives would have minimal or no effects.
General effects from projects similar to the proposed action alternative are also described in the documents to which this plan is tiered.

This document incorporates by reference the Belnap Allotment S&G Assessment (2002), which provides a complete discussion, analysis and summaries of the range resources and associated issues. Also, see the Belnap S&G Assessment Appendix for specific resource data and other associated information.

Climate

Implementing the Proposed Action or Alternative A would have no effect on the climate. However, both alternatives would allow affected resources to respond to the climate with improvement to these resources, as mentioned below in the vegetation section.

Drought

In response to drought conditions, BLM may modify the terms and conditions of a grazing permit (ie. number of cattle, turn out dates, removal dates, etc.) temporarily or on a more long-term basis. Most modifications are accomplished on a cooperative basis with the livestock permittee. However, if a permittee disagrees with BLM's assessment of the resource conditions or the necessary modifications, BLM may nevertheless issue a Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision to protect resources.

Vegetation

Grazing impacts on vegetation under the Proposed Action or Alternative A are mitigated by timing of use, duration of grazing, adjusting of stocking rates, and conformance with Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Management. The Proposed Action and Alternative A would have an established grazing rotation designed to allow each pasture a different season of rest during growing cycles, let cool and warm season grasses and browse to elongate their apical buds, build vigor and achieve seed ripe.

Under the Proposed Action, season of use would be modified from a summer/fall use period to winter/spring grazing regime. The following impacts to vegetation could be expected with the Proposed Action.

- Majority of grazing use on vegetation would occur during plant dormancy
- One of the two pastures would receive early spring grazing (03/01-05/15) each year
- Vegetation would be rested the entire summer growing season each year
- Livestock distribution would improve with winter season of use. During cooler temperatures livestock are less dependant on water, thus increasing foraging distance

over the allotment and reducing time loafing near water sources.

Alternative A or current management would continue with the season of use as specified on the present permit. The following impacts to vegetation could be expected with Alternative A.

- Vegetation would receive grazing deferment each spring growing season
- Each pasture would be rested for approximately ½ of the summer growing season
- Widespread livestock distribution would be limited without additional water development
- Majority of grazing use on vegetation would occur during the summer growing period

The allotments' major vegetation component consists mainly of pinyon-juniper woodlands with an associated understory of sagebrush, cliffrose, desert holly, blue grama, squirrel tail, sand dropseed, and a variety of forbs.

Vegetation issues identified on the Belnap allotment were the presence of noxious weeds and maintenance of the DPC Objectives. For a complete analysis and discussion of these issues refer to the Belnap Allotment S&G Assessment pages 5, 8, 10, and 18.

Monitoring data (1990 to 2000) of the Belnap allotment indicates that both key areas are in an upward trend of frequency and utilization has been well below allowable levels. These data reflect and suggest that current management coupled with precipitation would allow objectives for the vegetation components to be met on the allotment. These vegetation components constitute the ecological sites upon which DPC objectives are based. Key areas are established on ecological sites and monitored to determine the species composition, the frequency of plant species, and the vegetative ground cover.

Table 5. Summary of pace-frequency and vegetation cover data collected on Belnap Allotment from1982 to 2000. Figures shown are frequency percentages.

Pasture	Key Area	Year Read	% Key Species	Live Veg. Cover	Litter	Total
North	#1	1982	44	3	31	78
		1984	35	5	18	58
		1987	81	7	31	119
		1990	103	6	30	139
		2000	69	9	37	115
South	#2	1982	13	4	28	45
		1986	39	8	38	85
		1988	50	7	40	97
		1991	32	20	29	81
		2000	32	11	41	84

Utilization data from 1985-2000 has been compiled for this evaluation. The Key Species Grazed Class method was used to collect the data. Utilization is read at or around the designated key area for each pasture.

Utilization levels in the north pasture exceeded the 50% allowable on sand dropseed and galleta at 51% in 1996. All other years of the evaluation period, utilization was below 50%. Overall utilization in the north pasture for the evaluation period was 40%. In the south pasture, the highest utilization occurred on sand dropseed and squirrel tail in 1994 and 1996, at 51%. Overall utilization in the south pasture for the evaluation period was 37%.

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species

Neither the Proposed Action or Alternative A would impact any listed threatened or endangered species nor would the Proposed Action or Alternative A have an impact on an occasional fly over by the bald eagle or California condor.

BLM Sensitive Species

The Proposed Action or Alternative A would have no substantial impact on BLM sensitive and state species of concern. These species include the avian species, Ferruginous hawk, Black-crowned Night Heron, and snowy egret and sensitive bat species such as Townsend's big eared, spotted bats, small-footed myotis, fringed myotis and big free-tailed bats.

Wildlife

The Proposed Action would have no substantial impacts on big game (mule deer and pronghorn) or the other nongame wildlife found on the allotment. The area north of the allotment provides habitat for a herd of pronghorn antelope (*Antilocarpa Americana*). Pronghorn however, have not been observed in the Belnap allotment. The allotment is not considered suitable habitat for pronghorn due to the abundance of sagebrush and juniper trees. It is unlikely that pronghorn occur on the allotment.

Mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus) occur in limited numbers on the allotment. However, the area is not considered prime mule deer habitat. The area is included within Game Management Unit (GMU) 13B.

Alternative A would have no substantial impacts on big game (mule deer and pronghorn) or the other nongame wildlife found on the allotment.

Migratory Birds

Executive Order 13186 requires BLM and other federal agencies to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve protection for migratory birds. Implementation of the Proposed

Action or Alternative A is not likely to adversely affect any species of migratory bird known or suspected to occur on the allotment. No take of any such species is anticipated**.**

Soil

Attributes making up the soil resource should remain stable or improve thru implementation of the Proposed Action or Alternative A and the enforcement of the Arizona Standards and Guides process for permitted livestock grazing within the Belnap grazing allotment. Grazing rotations associated with the Proposed Action and Alternative A allow for seasonal plant rest resulting in increased vigor and allowing ground litter and cover to increase, thus protecting the soil. Utilization levels are within that allowable and current trends are up.

Cultural Resources

There would be no substantial impact to cultural or historical sites as a result of renewing this grazing permit under the Proposed Action or Alternative A. Cultural resources project file AZ BLM 010-2001-32 contains documentation of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Great efforts are made to avoid these sites during allotment project implementation. Further, archaeological inventories are completed prior to all project initiation.

Visual Resources

No additional adverse impacts on visual resources have been identified.

Livestock Grazing

Under the Proposed Action or Alternative A, the forage preference would remain active and livestock grazing would continue.

Possible Future Range Improvement Projects

There are two range improvement projects described below being proposed during the ten-year life of the renewed grazing permit. This EA does not analyze the impacts of these projects in detail. Both projects are inside of the National Monument and the appropriate NEPA analysis would occur prior to any action being taken.

1. Install 1.25 miles of pipeline and trough from an existing reservoir and storage tank to the eastern portion of the allotment. The project objective is to provide dependable water at the Boulder Pond area, which would assist in livestock distribution practices.

2. Implement actions to maintain the 1,000 acre Belnap sagebrush treatment area. The objective of this maintenance action is to prevent aggressive reinvasion of woody species and retain a high composition of herbaceous understory species

throughout the existing treatment. This action would be consistent with maintaining allotment DPC objectives.

Recreation Resources

Recreation in the area is primarily composed of driving for pleasure, recreational OHV use, horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, photography and nature study. No impact to recreation is expected from the Proposed Action or Alternative A.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative Impacts are tiered to the Arizona Strip RMP (1992), Environmental Consequences pages IV-36 to IV-38, and to chapter 3 of the Shivwits Grazing EIS (1980) which was adopted into the RMP. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts, Relationship between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment, Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity, and the Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources were discussed.

Cumulative impacts occur when additional management facilities are added to those already present. Grazing plans set specific objectives in the plan area and include rangeland improvements that are designed to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, watershed, and overall resource conditions, thus improving ecosystem health.

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions within the analysis area would continue to influence range resources, naturalness, aesthetics, watershed conditions and trends. The impact of land treatments targeting woody species, voluntary livestock reductions during dry periods and implementation of a grazing system have improved range conditions. The net result has been greater species diversity, improved plant vigor, and increased ground cover from grasses and forbs. No cumulative impacts are predicted to the range resource as a result of the Proposed Action or Alternative A.

Residual Impacts

Residual Impacts are tiered to the Arizona Strip RMP (1992), Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources page 172 of the Shivwits Grazing EIS (1980) which was adopted into the RMP. Though the Proposed Action or Alternative A does not propose any new fences, it does allow for the existence of present fence lines, which do create some restrictions of free passage, but do not prevent or prohibit passage of mule deer. Nor are other forms of wildlife using the area restricted by existing fences.

There are no residual impacts as a result of the Proposed Action or Alternative A to the vegetative resource. Future maintenance of existing vegetation treatments would likely take and would not affect additional acres beyond that done previously. Residual impacts from maintenance activities would be improved watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, and rangeland resources over time.

Monitoring

The monitoring addressed in the proposed action (pages 7-8) is sufficient to identify changes in vegetation as a result of livestock grazing activities. In addition to those methods described, there are efforts in place to inventory for noxious weed establishment, as well as monitor treated areas for treatment effectiveness. BLM weed specialist (LD Walker) has the lead on monitoring and treating noxious weeds on the Arizona Strip. He has provided training in identification and treatment as well as ways to reduce the spread of weeds to BLM employees and permittees.

Annual allotment compliance would be included in monitoring conducted on the allotment. Compliance monitoring would assure terms and conditions of the permit are being met. Compliance checks would also monitor any special conditions or mitigation included in Cooperative Agreements, Section 4 Permits, or other grazing regulations.

Mitigation

When noxious weeds are located, various methods are used for their control depending on the size of the infestation and growth stage of the plants. The methods include but are not limited to:

Physical or mechanical
Biological
Chemical or Cultural

If vegetative monitoring indicates current livestock grazing practices are causing non-attainment of resource objectives, BLM would modify the terms and conditions of a grazing permit (i.e. number of cattle, turn out dates, removal dates, etc.) temporarily or on a more long-term basis. Most modifications are accomplished on a cooperative basis with the livestock permittee. However, if a permittee disagrees with BLM's assessment of the resource conditions or the necessary modifications, BLM may nevertheless issue a Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision to protect resources.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This EA was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, UT 84790. Phone (435) 688-3200. Public involvement for the Belnap S&G evaluation began on March 14, 2001. An assessment field trip to the allotment was not conducted based on the type, scope and that corrective action of the noxious weed issue has been ongoing. The Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT) was assisted by the Rangeland Resources Team (RRT) appointed by the Arizona Resource Advisory Council. A draft evaluation was sent out for public review and comment to 31 Individuals, Groups and Agencies. BLM received only one comment response on the evaluation. Those comments were from Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) addressed pronghorn habitat, utilization levels, treatment of noxious weeds, and watershed condition. A response was prepared on September 23, 2002 and could be provided upon request. Those comments were incorporated into the Final Belnap evaluation report and this EA.

Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT)

Linda Price.....Project Coordinator
Whit Bunting....Range/Grazing
John Herron.....Archaeologist
Robert Smith....Soils, Watershed
Larry Gearhart.....Wilderness/Recreation
Mike Small.....Wildlife Biologist
Robert Price.....Field Supervisor,
Arizona Game and Fish Department

Internal Reviewers:

Gloria Benson, Native American Coordinator
Tom Folks, Recreation
Laurie Ford, Lands/Realty/Minerals
Mike Small, Wildlife
John Herron, Cultural
Lee Hughes, T/E Plants
Ray Klein, GCPNM Supervisory Ranger
Linda Price, S&G Coordinator
Bob Sandberg, Range
Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator
Ron Wadsworth, Supervisory Law Enforcement
Kathleen Harcksen, Assistant Monument Manager
Dennis Curtis, GCPNM Manger

Reviewed by Arizona Strip Field Office Planning and Environmental Coordinator (P&EC)

_____ _____

Richard Spotts,
P&EC

Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The Environmental Assessment AZ-130-2005-0015, hereby incorporated by reference, analyzed a livestock grazing permit renewal action conducted under the Arizona BLM Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management (S&Gs) where an intensive allotment evaluation was conducted with public and other agency involvement throughout the process. Analysis of existing study data indicates that overall Ecological Condition trends are static or up and pace frequency trends are improving on the allotment. The resource conditions on the allotment are meeting Standards for Rangeland Health. Issues were analyzed and it was determined that current management is not a factor in preventing attainment of Standards.

The Environmental Assessment reaffirmed the allotment's current grazing practices, and determines that the present grazing management program would continue to allow improvement to the health of public land resources, such as soil, water, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and wildlife and other resource values.

Based on the analysis of Environmental Assessment AZ-130-2005-0015, I have determined that the renewal of the Belnap Livestock Grazing Permit with modified season of use will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Manager,
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument

Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GRAND CANYON-PARASHANT NATIONAL MONUMENT
345 East Riverside Drive
St. George, Utah 84790
Phone: (435) 688-3345 Fax: (435) 688-3388

In Reply Refer To:
(4110) (010)

August 11, 2005

Certified #
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION

Dear Interested Public:

A Formal Allotment Evaluation was completed to address the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration for the Belnap Grazing Allotment #4849. On April 28, 1997, Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (S&Gs) were approved by Secretary of the Interior and adopted into all Land Use Plans (LUPs) in Arizona as indicated by the Decision Record for the Statewide Amendment. The Belnap Allotment Evaluation was conducted in accordance with the direction set forth in the Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 98-91 for implementation of Standards Rangeland Health and guidelines for grazing administration. The evaluation revealed that issuing a grazing permit, for a period of ten years, conformed to the applicable land use plans and amendments and the existing NEPA documentation adequately addresses the proposed action.

In accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations 4130.2, and based upon the allotment evaluation, consultation with affected permittee, interested publics, rangeland resource team and recommendations from the interdisciplinary assessment team, my proposed decision is to offer the grazing permit/lease, for the Belnap Allotment for a period of ten years with the following terms and conditions. The following terms and conditions become effective upon acceptance of the permit/lease.

1. The new Desired Plant Community (DPC) and vegetation cover objectives as listed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) EA-AZ-130-2005-0015 will be monitored to determine trends.

2. The season of use for the Belnap Allotment will be modified from June 1 through November 15 to December 1 through May 15.

3. Livestock grazing will be in accordance with the Proposed Action as outlined in EA-AZ-130-2005-0015. This decision adopts the Proposed Action as an interim Allotment Management Plan (AMP) for the Belnap Allotment until the future AMP is finalized. The following terms will apply.

    - Billing for grazing use will be based on the Actual Use Report which is due on or before June 15 each year.
    - Livestock may be moved into or out of a pasture 7 days before or after scheduled move dates.
    - Belnap will be used as a winter/spring unit and be operated under a 2-pasture deferred-rotation system allowing one pasture spring rest every other year.
    - Associated maintenance of facilities and improvements relevant to the grazing operation will be required and authorized.

Authorized Permitted use is as follows:

Allotment	Active AUMs	Suspended AUMs	Permitted Use
04849 Belnap	534	180	714

Kind and number of Livestock, period(s) of use and the amount of use, in animal unit months (AUMs):

Belnap Allotment Grazing Preference								
Allotment Name	**Permittee**	**Permit Number**	**Livestock**			**Active AUMs**	**Public Land (acres)**	**% Public Land**
			No.	**Kind**	**Season of Use**			
Belnap	Canyon Edge L.L.C.	4849	110	Cattle	12/01-05/15	515	7,279	85%
			4	Horses	12/01-05/15	19		

RATIONALE:

The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provides for livestock grazing use of the public lands which have been classified as proper for grazing. Grazing use must be consistent with proper rangeland management aimed at conservation and protection of the natural resources.

Arizona Standards and Guidelines (S&G) for grazing administration were developed through a collaborative process involving the Bureau of Land Management State S&G Team and the

Arizona Resource Advisory Council. Together, through meetings, conference calls, correspondence, and Open Houses with the public, the BLM State Team and RAC prepared Standards and Guidelines to address the minimum requirements outlined in the grazing regulations. The Standards and Guidelines, criterion for meeting Standards, and indicators are an integrated document that conforms to the fundamentals of rangeland health and the requirements of the regulations when taken as a whole.

The BLM has also reviewed the legal concerns and has concluded that the Standards and Guidelines evaluation and term permit renewal is supported by the National Environmental Policy Act and Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. The proposed action of renewing leases/permitted use conforms to the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan (Land Use Plan) dated January 31, 1992, as amended. The NEPA documentation covers the proposed action and alternatives which constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA, and procedural requirements as provided in the CEQ regulations. This is demonstrated by the following background information:

In December of 1996 a ("draft") Statewide Plan Amendment of Land Use Plans in Arizona for implementation of Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact, and supporting Environmental Assessment was sent out to 900 interested publics.

On April 28, 1997, Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (S&Gs) were approved by Secretary of the Interior and adopted into all LUPs in Arizona as indicated by the Decision Record for the Statewide Amendment.

The BLM has followed the mandate of Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which requires the Secretary of the Interior to: develop, maintain, and revise land use plans. The Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement guides the BLM's management of public lands and all resources.

The BLM has complied with the grazing regulations, Washington Office and Arizona BLM policies for permit/lease renewals and fundamentals of Rangeland Health as specified in 43 CFR 4180.

The Bureau of Land Management's grazing regulations contains many provisions for public participation in the decision making process. Consultation, cooperation and coordination (CCC) are the core of the public participation process and provides the BLM decision-maker the opportunity to consider the most complete information before making decisions.

Prior to scoping, the public was notified that the Belnap Grazing Allotment would be evaluated during that year to determine if the resource conditions were meeting the Arizona standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. This initial notification was provided to allow for public participation in CCC process. Different individuals, groups, organizations and agencies, were contacted from the general Resource Management Plan mailing

lists to determine specific interest in the Belnap Allotment and to solicit interest in the decision making process for grazing term permit renewal and Standard and Guideline evaluation.

Issue scoping took place on March 14, 2001, and a Draft Belnap S&G evaluation was sent out for public review and comment March 7, 2002 to 31 Individuals, Groups and Agencies. One response from the public was received. The Final Belnap S&G evaluation report was completed and signed September 30, 2002.

The assessment fulfilled its purpose of determining if the existing permitted livestock use, and other activity plans, which identify terms and conditions for management on public lands within the Belnap Allotment, meet, or are making significant progress toward meeting the standards or other LUP objectives and are in conformance with Arizona's Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. A thirty-day comment period on the draft report was afforded to the Permittees, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Land Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and interested public and other agencies.

The S&G assessment was conducted by an interdisciplinary assessment team (IAT) of resource specialists from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The IAT was assisted by the Rangeland Resource Team (RRT). The RRTs were established under the charter of the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and are involved during the S&G assessment process for permit/lease renewals. Recommendations were considered from the (RRTs), which represented a variety of commodity, environmental and recreational interests, to assist in the interdisciplinary assessment of Standards for Rangeland Health.

In accordance with Bureau Policy and regulations, all applicable monitoring data were examined and evaluated in order to determine progress in meeting Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and other land use plan objectives. Analysis of data indicated that the Land Use Planning (LUP) Objectives are being met. LUP Objectives pertaining to DPC's are being met and they assure rangeland health, state water quality standards, and habitat for: endangered, threatened, and sensitive species, as well as other wildlife is being maintained and improved. All key area DPC objectives for the allotment are being met. Issues were analyzed and it was determined that current management is not a factor in preventing attainment of Standards. A review of the resource data revealed that the allotment meets Standards 1 and 3. Standard 2 is not applicable (there are no riparian areas in the Allotment).

The IAT completed the rangeland health assessment to determine if renewal of the term grazing permits/leases would preclude the attainment of Arizona's S&Gs and determine if the proposed action (permit/lease renewal) was in conformance with the documented Land Use Plan and adequately covered under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The EA/FONSI, EA-AZ-130-2005-0015, which analyzed the livestock grazing permit renewal action, based on the S&G evaluation, was completed August 11, 2005. This referenced EA/FONSI is considered a public document and is available upon request.

The Environmental Assessment proposed a modification in the season of use for Belnap, reaffirmed the present grazing management, and determined that the present grazing management program would continue to allow improvement to the health of public land resources, such as soil, water, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and wildlife and other resource values. Further, the Authorized Officer made a determination that issuing a grazing permit for a period of ten years, conformed to the applicable land use plans and amendments, and the existing NEPA documentation adequately addresses the proposed action.

The Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 4130.2(a) require that, "Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through . . ." the Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan, which adopted the Shivwits Resource Area Grazing Environmental Impact Statement.

The Belnap allotment is within the designated Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. Designation of the monument does not, in and of itself, require modification of the current grazing practices. The presidential proclamation states that "Laws, regulations, and policies followed by the Bureau of Land Management in issuing and administering grazing leases on all lands under its jurisdiction shall continue to apply…". Therefore, the renewal of grazing permits within the Grand Canyon Parashant National is consistent with the Monument Proclamation. Under the Antiquities Act, BLM must protect objects identified in the presidential proclamations that establish national monuments. If BLM determines, through the current planning process or otherwise, that any monument objects are harmed by current management, then management (including permit conditions) will be modified accordingly.

Also, the renewal of grazing permits are allowed: As provided for in 43 CFRs 4100 where the objectives of regulations are ". . . to promote healthy sustainable rangeland ecosystems; to accelerate restoration and improvement of public rangelands to properly functioning conditions; to promote the orderly use, . . . ; to establish efficient and effective administration of grazing of public rangelands; . . .", and as provided for in the Land Use Plans in accordance with multiple-use objectives, requirements and provisions of established laws, regulations and BLM policies incorporating DPC Objectives using the Ecological Site Index approach.

Renewal of the grazing permit would comply with Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act and ARS§ 49-202 of the State Environmental Quality Act Certification. The management practices of the allotment are in conformance with Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, and are designed to assist management in meeting these Standards for Rangeland Health through guideline consistency on the Belnap Grazing Allotment.

As required by Bureau Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-052 renewal of these grazing permits would not result in an adverse effect on energy development, production or distribution.

Authority: The authority for this proposed decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4100.0-8 "The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use, and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)."

4110.3 "The authorized officer shall periodically review the permitted use specified in grazing permits or leases and shall make changes in the permitted use as needed to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity, to assist in restoring ecosystems to properly functioning condition, to conform with land use plans or activity plans or to comply with provisions of subpart 4180 of this part."

4130.2(a) "Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans. Permits or leases shall specify the types and levels of use authorized, including livestock grazing, suspended use, and conservation use. These grazing permits or leases shall also specify terms and conditions pursuant to 4130.3, 4130.3-1, and 4130.3-2."

4130.2(b) "The authorized officer shall consult, cooperate and coordinate with affected permittees or lessees, the State having lands or responsible for managing resources within the area, and the interested public prior to the issuance or renewal of grazing permits and leases."

4130.3 "Livestock grazing permits and leases shall contain terms and conditions determined by the authorized officer to be appropriate to achieve the management and resource condition objectives for public lands and other lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and to ensure conformance with the provisions of subpart 4180 of this part."

4130.3-1(a) "The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity of the allotment."

4130.3-2 "The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits or leases other terms and conditions which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands..."

4130.2(f) “The authorized officer will not offer, grant or renew grazing permits or leases when the applicants, including permittees/lessees seeking renewal, refuse to accept the proposed terms and conditions of a permit or lease.”

4160.1(a) “Proposed decisions shall be served on any affected applicant, permittee, or lessee, and any agent and lien holder of record, who is affected by the proposed actions, terms or conditions, or modification relating to applications, permits and agreements (including range improvement permits) or leases, by certified mail or personal delivery. Copies of proposed decisions shall also be sent to the interest publics.”

4160.2 “Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interests may protest the proposed decision under Sec. 4160.1 of this title in person or in writing to the authorized officer within 15 days after receipt of such decision.”

4180.2(c) The authorized officer shall take appropriate action as soon as practicable but not later than the start of next grazing year upon a determination that existing grazing management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to achieve standards and conform with the guidelines that are made effective under this section...**”**

Protests:

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interests may protest the proposed decision under 43 CFR 4160.1 in person or in writing to the authorized officer, Dennis Curtis, at 345 East Riverside Dr., St. George, Utah 84790, within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the proposed decision is in error.

In the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer in 30 days from the date of the proposed decision without further notice**.**

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal and petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on appeal under 43 CFR 4160.4, 4.21 and 4.470. The appeal and petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted above, within 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final.

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error.

Should you wish to file a motion for stay, the appellant shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

(1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
(2) The likelihood of the appellant’s success on the merits.

(3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
(4) Whether the public interest favors the stay.

As noted above the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.

Sincerely,

Dennis Curtis, Manager
Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument